GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5754
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2001
COMPOSITION OF PLANNING COMMISSION
GANTA SRINIVASA RAO

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the composition of the Planning Commission including the number of members, advisers, consultants etc., together with its full complement of the supporting staff;

(b) whether any efforts have been made to downsize the Planning Commission on the lines of various Ministries and Departments of the Central Government ;

(c) if so, results achieved so far; and

(d) the possible role and relevance of the Commission in the changing economic scenario?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF PLANNING, STATISTICS & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE)

(a): The Planning Commission is headed by the Prime Minister and has one Deputy Chairman, six Members and a Secretary. The Minister Of State for Planning is also an Ex-officio Member of the Commission. Besides, the Commission has, in its composition, the Union Ministers for Finance and External Affairs as the two Part time Minister Members. The Commission has 24 Adviser level officers.

They have been provided with both technical and secretarial supporting staff.
The position in respect of various posts / persons is as under:-

	Planning Commission		Programme Evaluation Organisation			
GROUP	Sanctioned	Filled	Headquarters		Field Offices	
			Sanctioned	Filled	Sanctioned	Filled
A	307	234	12	05	37	22
B	276	259	05	05	35	30
C	398	319	10	09	67	43
D	317	305	08	08	30	21
Total	1380	1186	35	27	169	116

11+ 10+
20+ 14+
24+ 20+
27+ 25+

Total Sanctioned Staff - 1584
Total Filled Posts - 1329

+ These posts / persons are co-terminus with the tenures of Deputy Chairman or Members.

(b) &(c): The Planning Commission has recently undertaken a Review of posts in the light of the guidelines of the Ministry of Finance and as an outcome of the Review, 157 posts at various levels have already been abolished in the Planning Commission during the year 2000-2001. Besides, a number of posts at various levels are not being operated by the Planning Commission.

(d): In the face of changing domestic economic policy regime and an equally fast paced integration of the economy with the emerging global order, investment planning is no more the only, or the more predominant, or even the most effective instrument of pursuing development. In fact, the role of state and hence of planning has to move from a direct intervention in economic activity in general and the production process in particular, to facilitating creation of an environment that encourages individual initiative and reaches out by providing opportunity to all. Planning has to, therefore, go beyond undertaking mere budgetary allocations, between the competing sectors and regions, for that alone would not be enough, and move towards ensuring policy harmonisation over time and across space. This requires the Planning Commission to strengthen its role as a `Think Tank` − a repository of expert knowledge.

Planning Commission is currently engaged in an exercise to determine what would be the most effective role for the Commission in the altered domestic and global scenario. In this regard, a note prepared on the Role of the Planning Commission in the wake of changing economic scenario was discussed in the full Planning Commission Meeting held on 30th September, 2000 under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister. The proposal was broadly approved and is to be further discussed between the Deputy Chairman and the Union Finance Minister.